

## SI International, Inc. (July 25, 2005)

Clintwood, Virginia

I am pleased to participate today in announcing the arrival of 80 new jobs for Dickenson County. SI International and its federal partner, the Federal Retirement and Thrift Investment Board, will be settling here in the Dickenson County Technology Park, investing more than \$18 million over the next five years and providing Dickenson County residents with a new stable source of employment.

Beginning this fall, SI International employees in this facility will provide telephone-based customer service to employees of the federal government who participate in the government's Thrift Savings Plan. The Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement savings plan offered to federal civilian employees and members of the military and is similar to 401(k) plans which are offered by many private employers.

The Thrift Savings Plan is offered to federal civilian employees and members of the uniformed services as a way to save for their retirement. More than 3.4 million federal civilian employees and military servicemen and women participate in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), and the assets of the TSP total approximately \$157 billion.

SI International has a longstanding relationship with the federal government through the Federal Retirement and Thrift Investment Board. The federal contract which is enabling the company to settle here is the second such federal contract which has been awarded to SI, and the company is committed to continuing its relationship with the Board as new opportunities become available to do so.

The company's involvement with the Thrift Savings Plan first began several years ago when it successfully competed for the initial federal contract to develop and build the automated computer system which supports the TSP. SI International more recently obtained the federal contract to provide technical support to the TSP system, and today's announcement further extends its partnership with the Federal Retirement and Thrift Investment Board by enabling SI to provide direct support to all TSP participants.

Quite simply, I cannot think of a better employer to occupy this space within the Dickenson County Technology Park. SI International, with its ties to the federal government through the Federal Retirement and Thrift Investment Board, will offer a new stability of employment to Dickenson County residents who choose to work at the new facility.

Dickenson County has long been overdue for a success of this nature, and I am pleased that the new employment opportunities which SI International is offering can provide a peace of mind to the company's new employees. These jobs, unlike many in the private sector, are not dependent upon market trends. Rather, the Federal Retirement and Thrift Investment Board oversees the retirement savings plans for millions of federal workers throughout the nation and abroad.

The stability of the employment opportunities which are being announced today rests in the soundness of our federal government and the strength and quality of the employees who will soon be carrying out the work here in this facility. I have no doubt that SI International, the Federal Retirement and Thrift Investment Board and the residents of Dickenson County will each benefit and thrive from the new relationship being forged today.

I'd like to take the opportunity of these remarks to recognize the individuals who are responsible for the success which we are announcing.

I first want to thank the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority, Executive Director Charles Yates and the fine staff at the Authority. Demonstrating the outstanding work routinely performed at VCEDA on behalf of our region, the VCEDA staff found SI International through its marketing efforts, contacted the company and mounted a successful operation to seal the deal in Clintwood.

Governor Mark Warner, Secretary of Trade and Commerce Mike Schewel and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership have once again shown their steadfast commitment to expanding the employment opportunities in Dickenson County.

I also want to recognize Andy Mullins, Chairman of the Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority, Director Charlotte Mullins and the rest of the Authority for their untiring efforts on behalf of Dickenson County.

Paul Buchanan, Chairman of the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors, other members of the Board, and Clintwood Mayor Donald Baker also deserve our thanks today for their support of economic development in Dickenson County.

I also want to thank the hardworking people of Dickenson County, whose diligence and positive attitude have helped assure that good jobs at good wages will continue to be provided to residents of the area at this building.

And finally, I want to recognize and thank two key individuals whose confidence in our region has made this announcement possible: Brad Antel, President and CEO of SI International, and Penny Moran with the Federal Retirement and Thrift Investment Board. We welcome SI International and the Federal Retirement and Thrift Investment Board to Dickenson County and to Southwest Virginia, and we pledge our full and ongoing support to assuring your success in our region.